REMARKS

Claims 6-8 and 17-26 are pending. By this Response claims 6, 7, 17 and 22 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicants representative during the discussion of the claim language during the telephone interview on March 29, 2007. During this interview the Examiner asserted that the claim language is broad. The Examiner stated that he viewed the term "identifier" as similar to a compression ratio and thus used to decompress the lookup table. He also stated that he viewed the "color characteristic points" as being any type of data point representative of the color image.

As explained in the interview, the terms "identifier" and "color characteristic points" refer to specific features that are contrary to the Examiner's interpretation. The Examiner suggested amending the claims to better define these terms. In this response, claims 6, 7, 17 and 22 have been amended to clarify the terms "identifier" and "color characteristic points."

PRIOR ART REJECTION

The Office Action rejects claims 6-8 and 17-26 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhattacharjya USP 5,809,213. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 7 each recite, *inter alia,* multidimensional lookup table producing means for producing a multidimensional lookup table having only

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color characteristic points representing the supplied image data, the color characteristic points representing a relationship between a first point and a final point and any points in between the supplied image data and output image data.

Claim 6 further recites, the identifier being an element of the color characteristic data which identifies a restoring method for restoring the compressed multidimensional lookup table.

Claim 17 recites, *inter alia*, wherein said color characteristic description apparatus outputs color characteristic data, which includes said compressed multidimensional lookup table and an identifier which is an element of the characteristic data, for identifying a restoring method for restoring said compressed multidimensional lookup table and a repairing method.

Claim 22 recites, *inter alia*, outputting said color characteristic data from said color characteristic description apparatus, said color characteristic data including said compressed multidimensional lookup table and an identifier which is an element of the characteristic data, for identifying a restoring method for restoring said compressed multidimensional lookup table; and synthesizing said outputted color characteristic data with image data, which is then outputted as camera output data and a repairing method.

Bhattacharjya teaches a method and apparatus for color correction. In accomplishing the color correction, Bhattacharjya measures sample points based on scanned image patches. The color points are used in non-linear and linear interpolation techniques which result in augmented sample points. This alleviates the need to generate additional measured data points by printing image patches and scanning them. The data values are then used to generate a

lookup table. The lookup table is stored in the memory for future reference. See Fig. 2a, columns 10-11.

Although Bhattacharjya teaches a lookup table which includes data related through color characteristics, Bhattacharjya teaches storing the lookup table in the memory without compressing the lookup table. Also, Bhattacharjya does not teach a color characteristic data that includes an identifier and decompressed lookup table where the identifier is used to identify the method by which the lookup table can be restored.

The Examiner asserts that he views the term "identifier" as a compression ratio or similar thereto. In claims 6 and 7 the term "identifier" is further defined as being an element of color characteristic data. Bhattacharjya does not teach or suggest a compression ratio as being an element of color characteristic data.

Also, in claims 17 and 22 the "identifier" identifies a repairing method as well as a restoring method. Bhattacharjya does not teach or suggest an identifier used to identify a repairing method, as recited in claims 17 and 22.

The characteristic data is also further defined in claims 6 and 7 as being the color characteristic points representing a relationship between a first point and a final point and any points in between the supplied image data and output image data. Thus, the characteristic points are not related to the "augmented sample points" of Bhattachjya that are obtained from sample points of scanned image patches.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established in view of Bhattacharjya. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

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In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings Reg. No. 48,917 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 30, 2007   Respectfully submitted,

                                   By
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